

REPLACEMENT SHEETS FOR THE DRAWINGS

Please replace Figures 27 and 28 with the attached  
Replacement Sheets for the Drawings.

REMARKS

A. Request for Reconsideration

Applicants have carefully considered the matters raised by the Examiner in the outstanding Office Action but remain of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's position based on the amendments to the specification and claims, and the following remarks.

B. Objections to the Drawings

Figures 27 and 28 had been objected for not including a legend "Prior Art".

Applicants have submitted Replacement Sheets for the Drawings clearly indicating "Prior Art" on each figure.

C. Objections to the specification and the Amendments to the Specification

The specification has been objected for being unclear and unconcise and misusing articles in the previously amended portion. The Examiner requested a review and correction of the entire specification.

The Applicants have carefully reviewed the entire specification and amended the specification with clear and concise wordings. A mark-up copy of the amended specification and a clean copy of the same are attached.

The amendments are made to clarify the wordings and place the specification to conform to the conventional US format..

According to the US practice, the Applicants submit a Substitute Abstract to replace the abstract originally filed.

No new matter was added.

It is respectfully submitted that the specification is cleared of informality issues raised by the Examiner.

D. Claim Status and Amendments to the Claims

Claims 2-4 are pending for further consideration. Claims 5-26 have been canceled as being drawn to nonelected species.

Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 3 and 4 have been amended to change their dependencies onto Claim 2.

No new matter was added by these amendments.

E. Amendments after final Office Action

The above amendments to the Specification and Claims are made after a final Office Action. However, according to 37 CFR 1.116 (b) (1): "An amendment may be made canceling claims or complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action", these amendments are permitted and should be entered.

F. Prior Art Rejections under 35 USC § 103

The Examiner maintains the previous rejections to claims 1, 3, and 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Takeuchi.

Claim 1 has been canceled and claims 3 and 4 have been amended to be depended on Claim 2.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejections to the claims 1, 3 and 4 are moot in view of the claim amendments.

G. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that Claim 2 was allowed. The Examiner also indicated that claims 3 and 4 were allowable.

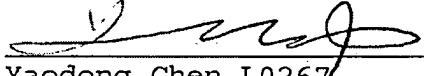
Applicants have amended Claims 3 and 4 to be depended on the allowed Claim 2. It is respectfully submitted that the claims 2-4 are in the condition of allowance.

H. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that the Application is now in condition for allowance and this action is hereby requested. Should any fees or extensions of time be necessary in order to maintain the Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account #02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

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DCL/YDC/aty

Enclosures:

Marked copy of the amended Specification

Clean copy of the amended Specification

Replacement Sheets for the Drawings.